State Consumer Redressal Fora

256. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of consumer cases pending with various State Redressal fora and the apex Court as on date together with their break-up State-wise;

(o) what is the average time taken for the disposal of a case in these fora;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in disposal of such cases; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to expedite their disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) In the National Commission, 375 complaints, 919 appeals and 355 revision petitions were pending as on 1-11-1993. A statement containing the state wise pendency of cases in the State Commissions and District Forums is given in the annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXIX, Annexure No. 2].

(b) Such information is not compiled by the Government. However, the average time taken in deciding a case varies from court to court.

(c) Inadequacy of staff and infrastructure, financial constraints and increasing number of cases which are being filed in the consumer courts are some of the reasons for delay in their disposal.

(d) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 has been amended in 1993 to empower the State Governments/UT Administrations to set up more than one District Forum wherever considered necessary depending upon the workload. The decision to set up additional District Forum rests exclusively with the State Governments.

Scrapping of high income earning people from the purview of Public Distribution System

257. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to scrap high income earning people from the purview of Public Distribution System in view of the liberalization of economy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Committee of State Ministers set up by Central Government to evolve a National Policy on PDS has recommended the exclusion of certain categories of population from the purview of the PDS. The report of the Committee was discussed at the meeting of the PDS Advisory Council on 22-9-1993. As some States made recommendations either in favour of continuing the universal character of PDS or modifying the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers the report would require further consultations with States.

Profits earned by Super Bazar

258. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of profit earned from sales by the Super Bazar in New Delhi, year-wise month-wise of each Branch in last three years;

(b) if so, what are the details of month-wise, item-wise net-sales in each Branch in respective years as on date till 30th June, 1993;